

**Subject** Preventing Homelessness Division Report

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## **Article 1: Preventing Homelessness**

### **Section Description – Article 1: Preventing Homelessness**

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- 1 Funding.**  
Requires the commissioner of health to prioritize providing trauma-informed, culturally inclusive services to youth served by the safe harbor program.
- 2 Definitions.**  
Extends the duration of transitional housing, as set in its definition, from 24 to 36 months.
- 3 Establishment and administration.**  
Expands the discretion of the commissioner of human services to extend transitional housing beyond the time period prescribed by the definition of transitional housing.
- 4 Countable income.**  
Amends section 2561.03, subdivision 7, to reduce the amount of countable income for SSI recipients living in certain supportive housing from 100 percent of the SSI benefit limit (less the medical assistance personal needs allowance) to 30 percent of SSI benefits received. Also sets countable income for VA benefits recipients in certain supportive housing at 30 percent of the benefits received. Supportive housing establishments whose residents qualify for this reduction have residents with approved habitability inspections and individual lease agreements.
- 5 Awarding of grants.**  
Prohibits reduction in award of homeless youth act grants unless the recipient underperforms or misuses grant money. Requires the commissioner of human services to allow grant money to carry over from the first to the second year of any two-year grant contract.
- 6 Report.**  
Extends the deadline for the final report of the task force on shelter from August 31, 2022, to December 15, 2022.

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**7 Pregnant and parenting homeless youth study.**

Requires the commissioner of human services to study the prevalence of pregnancy and parenting among homeless youths and youths at risk of homelessness and to report to the legislature on the study by December 31, 2023.

**8 Sexual exploitation and trafficking study.**

Requires the commissioner of health to perform a prevalence study on survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking and to report to the legislature on the study by June 30, 2024.

**9 Emergency shelter facilities.**

This section establishes a grant program for cities, counties, nonprofits, Tribal governments, and housing and redevelopment authorities to fund improvement and expansion of shelter facilities.

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms for the purposes of the program, including “eligible applicant” as a statutory or home rule charter city, county, Tribal government, nonprofit, or housing and redevelopment authority.

**Subd. 2. Project criteria.** Requires prioritization of grants to projects which would add additional shelter facilities or shelter facility beds or which improve the habitability or accessibility of existing shelter facilities. Allows a grant to pay up to 100 percent of a project and up to \$10,000,000 per project.

Effective July 1, 2022.

## **Article 2: Appropriations**

This bill appropriates money to various programs and entities to fund (1) services for homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness, and (2) prevalence studies on homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness.

This bill appropriates a total of \$14,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$129,950,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services. The 2023 amounts are composed of:

- \$75,000,000 for emergency shelter facilities;
- \$35,000,000 for emergency services grants;
- \$10,000,000 for homeless youth act grants;
- \$5,500,000 for safe harbor grants;
- \$2,500,000 for transitional housing;

- \$1,650,000 for shelter-linked youth mental health grants; and
- \$300,000 for a prevalence study of pregnancy and parenting among homeless youths and youths at risk of homelessness.

The 2022 amounts are composed of:

- \$8,000,000 to Ramsey Heading Home Continuum of Care for shelter facilities and programming; and
- \$6,000,000 to Hennepin County for shelter facilities and programming.

This bill also adds \$25,000,000 to the annual base appropriation for emergency services grants in fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

This bill also appropriates \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of health. This amount is composed of:

- \$1,000,000 for safe harbor grants to fund supportive services;
- \$700,000 for safe harbor regional navigators; and
- \$300,000 to fund a prevalence study on victim survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking.



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